

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1676

Introduced by Assembly Members Richman and Nation

February 22, 2005

An act to add Section 7195 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to death.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1676, as introduced, Richman. Advance Directives and Terminal Illness Decisions Program.

Existing law authorizes an adult to give an individual health care instruction and to appoint an attorney to make health care decisions for that individual in the event of his or her incapacity pursuant to a durable power of attorney for health care.

This bill would enact the Advance Directives and Terminal Illness Decisions Program, which would require the State Department of Health Services to develop information about end of life care and advanced health care directives. The bill would require the Department of Motor Vehicles to include this information as part of its regular vehicle registration mailings and to display informational and registration materials regarding advanced health care directives at each department field office and on its Internet Web site. It would also require the Department of Motor Vehicles to develop a registry of advanced health care directives that would be linked with the electronic medical record systems of hospitals and medical providers.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. This act shall be known, and may be cited, as
 2 the Advance Directives and Terminal Illness Decisions Program.
 3 SEC. 2. The Legislature finds and declares the following:
 4 (a) The purpose of this act is to increase communication of
 5 end of life issues between individuals, families, and health care
 6 providers.
 7 (b) Palliative care, including treatment options for pain, are
 8 important alternatives for patients and the health care system.
 9 SEC. 3. Section 7195 is added to the Health and Safety Code,
 10 to read:
 11 7195. (a) The State Department of Health Services shall
 12 develop information about end of life care and advanced health
 13 care directives. The Department of Motor Vehicles shall include
 14 this information as part of its regular vehicle registration mailings
 15 and shall display informational and registration materials
 16 regarding advanced health care directives at each department
 17 field office and on its Internet Web site.
 18 (b) The Department of Motor Vehicles shall develop a registry
 19 of advanced health care directives that shall be linked with the
 20 electronic medical record systems of hospitals and medical
 21 providers.